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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,468	05/31/2001	Ichiro Fukunishi	55973/70904	1525

21874 7590 03/29/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HOAN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/871,468	Applicant(s) FUKUNISHI, ICHIRO	
	Examiner HOAN C. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6, 11-16 and 21-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 7-10 AND 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/22/2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 7-10 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsueda (US5173792A).

In regard to claims 7 and 17, Matsueda teaches (Fig. 11) a liquid crystal display device comprising:

- gate wiring Y_n and source wiring X_n disposed in a lattice state;
- a switching element 140A/B provided on each lattice point;

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- a pixel electrode 141 to be connected to a drain electrode 144/174 of the switching element;
- an auxiliary capacitance electrode 160 which is formed in the same manufacturing process as the gate wiring Y_{n-1} and disposed in parallel with the gate wiring so as to form a storage capacitance which is serially connected to the pixel electrode;
- electrodes 170A-C which are disposed in parallel on said auxiliary capacitance electrode at different portions at an extension portion of the drain electrode of the switching element in an extending direction via pixel electrode and connected to each other via a coupling portion to connect with the drain electrode through pixel electrode, and a branch coupling portion which branches off from the coupling portion in-between;

wherein

- said electrodes disposed in parallel are connected to the pixel electrodes via through holes 165 which are respectively formed in a layer insulating film 148, which is on said electrodes, and stacked via the auxiliary capacitance electrode and insulating film so as to respectively form the storage capacitances;

and, according to claim 17,

- a method, when a short circuit/or defect occurs between either one of the two electrodes and the auxiliary capacitance electrode, comprising the steps of:
 - laser-cutting the coupling portion or branch coupling portion that is connected to the electrode on a short-circuited side off; and electrically

disconnecting the electrode on the short-circuited side from the pixel electrode (col. 15 lines 62-68).

Regard to claims 8 and 18, Matsueda teaches (Fig. 11) a liquid crystal display device, wherein the coupling portion and the branch coupling portion are respectively made of thin lines.

Regards to claims 9 and 19, Matsueda teaches (Fig. 11) a liquid crystal display device wherein the two electrodes are pad electrodes 170A-C, respectively.

Regards to claims 10 and 20, Matsueda teaches (Fig. 11) a liquid crystal display device, wherein the switching element is a thin film transistor.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on Dec. 22, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's ONLY arguments are follows:

Matsueda fails to disclose the feature "providing two cutoffs to prevent leakage".

Examiner's responses to Applicants' ONLY arguments are follows:

Claims 7 and 17 do not also recite the feature "providing two cutoffs to prevent leakage". Therefore, the response's argument is irrelevant.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOAN C. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-2296. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY:8:00AM-4:30PM.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0530.

CHN

HOAN C. NGUYEN
Examiner
Art Unit 2871


ROBERT H. KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800